



PEI
INSTITUTIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECT



Universidad de
La Sabana

Identity

Universidad de La Sabana, as a University, is a community of persons (*universitas magistrum et scholarium*), united by the shared objective of disinterested growth in higher knowledge, thanks to which it is a community of knowledge (*universitas scientiarum*). Since knowledge is a good in itself, diffusive as every good, communication becomes necessary and thus derives in an academic task. Therefore, through research and teaching, the University portrays itself as service-oriented, in the various sectors of society

Universality, which is one of its essential aspects, articulates, in accordance with the unity of what is real, the imperative coherence between the objectives pursued by the University's mission and the uniqueness of every person, the plurality of their ideological and scientific positions, and the diversity of knowledge.

The following main characteristics of the University can be highlighted:

- a)** Interpersonal and permanent dialogic encounter in pursuit of truth, within a profound respect for freedom and the acceptance of the importance of the highest and noblest values of humanity.
- b)** Openness to a positive and disinterested spirit while in pursuit of truth.
- c)** Universality with respect to sciences, techniques and arts, and of all people.
- d)** Its influential action in society, in order to serve all.
- e)** Autonomy, as a prerequisite to fulfill its mission.
- f)** The study and permanent adjustment to the realities of the environment, in which the University develops its activities, provided it does not contradict its principles.

Considering its institutional nature, Universidad de La Sabana requires efficient management and administrative organization, whereby the structural and functional planning and execution of resources is subject to, and is oriented towards, the academic management and objectives of the University. This conceptual and practical organization shall govern the action of its administrative structure. In turn, the academic community must be aware of the requirements and limitations of the resources which are required to support the aims of the University.



Mission

Universidad de La Sabana, a civil institution of higher education, ensures that its teachers, students and other members of the University community freely engage, on the basis of unity of life, of acting, thinking and speaking coherently, in pursuing, discovering, communicating and maintaining the truth, in every field of knowledge, based on a Christian notion of the human being and the world as a contribution to society's progress.

The University promotes respect for the transcendent dignity of the human person and, in an atmosphere of responsible freedom, fosters the integral perfection of each one of the members of the University community by means of a personalized attention and the creative, rigorous, interdisciplinary academic exercise. Furthermore, the University promotes work experienced as a service and a means to build a just, peaceful and fraternal society.

Universidad de La Sabana interacts with every sector of society and contributes with legitimate solutions to its numerous and complex problems through interdisciplinary, competent and supportive work, as a result of the articulation of research and teaching which, in turn, seek the common good, the coexistence and the cooperation among all people, without discrimination and with the unconditional recognition of human life, the human person, and family in society.

Principles

The principles on which the mission of the University is founded, in a universal and permanent manner, are related with its ultimate purpose, its Christian inspiration, and its legal identity.

The rationale of the University, as such, gives origin to the principle of the pursuit, discovery, communication and conservation of truth, inspired by the Christian approach of the human person and the world.

Universidad de La Sabana, in response to the pursuit and communication of truth, shall ensure:

- The necessary articulation between reason and faith.
- The continuous dialogue and respect for discrepancy.



- The utmost openness to truth, without restrictions resulting from schools or definitions in matters which are arguable or refutable *per se*, and without restraints derived from the legitimate decisions adopted by those who work at the University.
- The integration of the various sciences, according to the nature, extent and complexity of their object and method, always under the rigor and intellectual honesty, in a multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary exercise.
- Universality, so that the plurality of people and diversity of knowledge are articulated by means of knowledge
- Freedom of teaching, learning, research and lecture, within the boundaries of truth and common good, under scientific rigor and both personal and social moral responsibility.
- Availability of support from the most advanced research, teaching and social projection resources.

As a result of its Christian inspiration of the human person and the world, Universidad de La Sabana must ensure:

- Respect for the transcendent dignity of every person.
- The unconditional defense of human life.
- The promotion of the concept of family as the bedrock of society.
- Respect for freedom of conscience and the promotion of the responsible exercise of freedom, expressed in coherent thinking, speech and action.
- Fair coexistence and cooperation among people, always aimed towards common good.
- The performance of work and study, as a means of personal and social development, growth and transcendence of man.
- The validity of a positive and optimistic attitude towards the world, derived from understanding the created dimension of the physical and natural order and its providential ordination with respect to human existence and human action.
- Respect for the conservation and wise use of nature.



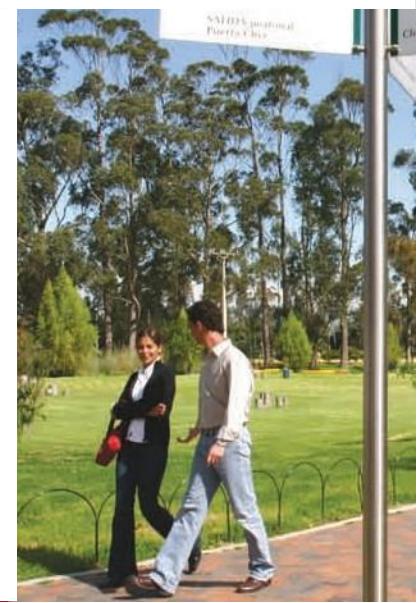
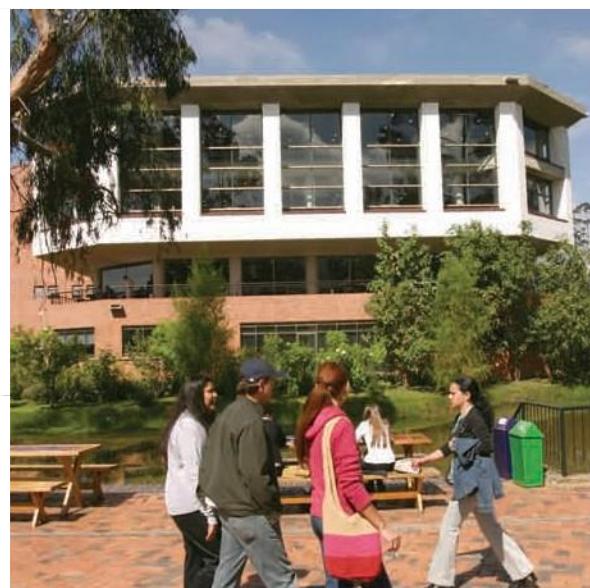
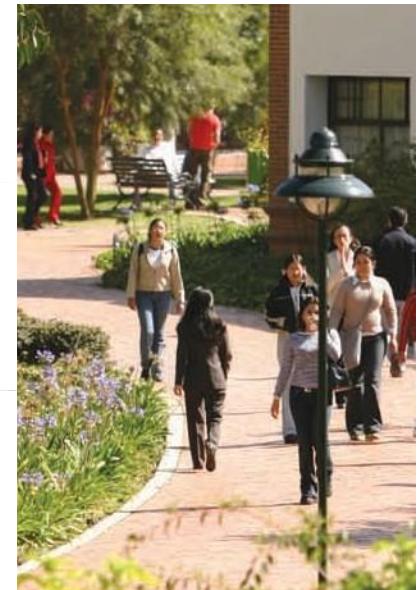
In response to its legal identity and by virtue of its autonomy, the University declares its quality as a civil institution and its status as an initiative of corporate apostolate of *Opus Dei*.

Given its nature, Universidad de La Sabana is based on the principle of autonomy, which means the ability to give itself rules and govern itself based on such norms.

The University is autonomous, because the pursuit of truth and commitment to such task require freedom, and because it is able to acknowledge and pursue its identity, its own objectives, and to discern and adopt the means that allow their achievement.

The University must provide, through its structure and regulations, the means to ensure the achievement of its objectives. Its teachers, students and administrative staff should be identified with the promotion and defense of the aforementioned identity.

The civil character of Universidad de La Sabana derives from its origin: it is promoted by civil persons who, under their own responsibility, promote, direct and manage the University, in accordance with the civil laws of the country.



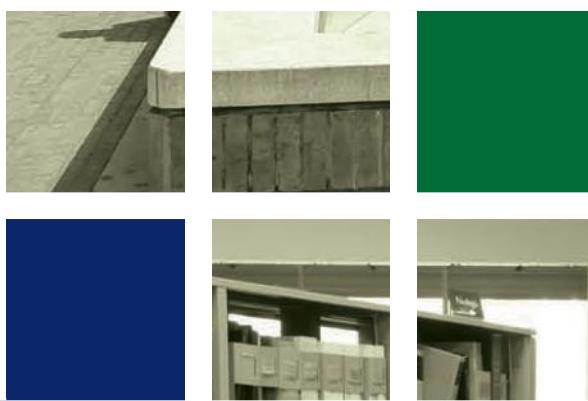


As for its apostolic status, as a corporate apostolate of Opus Dei, Universidad de La Sabana is fully autonomous; the Prelature of Opus Dei exclusively assumes responsibility for its Christian orientation. It is not, therefore, a University of Catholic denomination, neither officially nor informally.

The autonomy exercised by the University is a responsible autonomy; therefore, the University must account firstly for itself, as part of an ongoing process of reflection and self-assessment, and furthermore, it must account for the coherence and quality of its educational project before the founding entity, the scientific community, society and the Government.

As a consequence of the above, the University agrees to provide:

- Continuous attention and formation to teachers, with the understanding that they are the core itself of University's life, the permanent strata, whose work shall create the imprint that enables the University to fulfill its mission.
- The consolidation of faculty, whereby most of the teachers have a full-time and exclusive dedication in order to transform their academic work in a professional vocation. Notwithstanding the above, the University shall keep limited participation of external teachers and speakers, who will share their expertise with the University community.
- The exercise of academic tutoring by the teachers of the University who shall provide ongoing personal attention to the students.
- The permanent exercise of a collegial decision system as a means to govern the University at the different levels of its structure, as its own type of participation in the University decisions.





Vision

The University projects its future based on its internal reality and the external forces that gravitate in the present. The future it foresees states its mission and describes its goals and medium and long term aspirations, as well as the manner in which it expects to be recognized.

From the abovementioned perspective,

We wish to make the University a focus of higher knowledge of the highest level possible, at the service of the human person, family and society. We wish to "educate wise persons with a Christian sense of life. We wish that in this environment, favorable for calm reflection, science, rooted in the soundest principles, is cultivated and its light is projected in every field of knowledge" 1. In order to reach such quality level, we have to appoint highly qualified people, provide resources for continuing education, and acquire the technical and economic resources for the fulfillment of our mission.

1. San Josemaría Escrivá de Balaguer. *La Universidad, Foco Cultural de Primer Orden*. 25 October, 1960.

We seek a University open to every person who seeks to become a competent professional in this University, who values the rectitude of judgment and a coherent approach to life, with the decision to serve others, and thus who is capable of helping to shape a more just and human society, through his or her work.

We wish for a University where the person is highly valued, together with his or her needs and his or her interest for integral development.

We also wish for a University where every member of the academic community is committed to its mission and goals.

We wish for a University focused on faculty, fostering research and humanistic, scientific, technical and artistic education and pedagogy. Faculty members shall enjoy permanent opportunities for their development and improvement.

We wish for a University where faculty and employees find opportunities for their personal and professional progress, as well as the necessary resources for a worthy and comfortable life for them and their families.

We wish for a University with students with the highest capacities, convinced of their academic project, with critical skills and with an adult and responsible view of life.

We wish for a University open to everyone, with the required conditions for higher education at the level which is provided in the University, regardless of their economic resources.

We wish for a University that, without being alien to the constraints and the reality in which it is inserted, constitutes a permanent and valid interlocutor with the academic and scientific community and with the various sectors of society and culture; a University that promotes cooperation for development of joint projects and programs and the exchange of talents and resources.

We wish for a University that is a lighthouse of knowledge that enlightens and disseminates, from a Christian perspective, seriously structured thinking in every field of knowledge.

We wish for a University whose commitment with the development of knowledge provides solutions to major problems and helps to respond to the new demands and needs of society.

We wish for a University open to the transmission of knowledge, willing to give the best opportunities and make education a permanent and flexible process.

Resolutions

Universidad de La Sabana, in accordance with its vision, shall:

a) With regards to research:

- Form a research community of the highest scientific and expertise level that, inspired by a Christian vision of the human person and the world, is able to:
 - a) Consolidate the University academically, so that becomes capable of meeting the requirements of today's open society;
 - b) Encourage dynamic strategies to generate and project knowledge in every science;
 - c) Contribute to the solution of theoretical, practical, technical and aesthetic problems that arise in the lives of human persons, both individually and collectively.
- Consolidate the articulation of research and teaching, by developing pedagogical processes that stimulate a systematic approach to knowledge, and the development of programs for permanent professional development of University faculty. This articulation involves the simultaneous practice of research and teaching.
- Establish institutional research plans providing a balance between basic research and applied research, which should include sufficient harmony between theoretical, aesthetic and practical knowledge, and that correlate scientific research with technique, as well as research in social sciences with the humanities and creative arts.
- Consolidate networks not only with other universities, but also other national and international institutions, to develop joint programs, research strands and projects.

b) With regards to teaching:

- Develop, in teacher/researcher and students, the ability to integrate the different levels of knowledge, taking as a model the unity of what is real.
- Ensure strict conservation, transmission and expansion of knowledge, and the continuous development of faculty and students' habits and

skills aimed at increasing theoretical, practical, technical and aesthetic knowledge

- Ensure the personal attention and integral education of every student, in every program offered by the University.
- Offer higher education programs that respond, in an adequate and simultaneous manner, to its mission, to the needs of the country and the global trends in education.
- Strive for the continuous formation and development of the faculty community, who shall have the highest qualifications possible, and who shall be able to integrate their scientific and specific knowledge with a wide Christian vision of the human person and the world.
- Promote the development of teaching practices to encourage independent thinking the creativity of students and their ability for innovation and the solution of problems.

c) With regards to social projection:

- Strive for actions of social projection resulting from the articulation of teaching and research processes.
- Strive for education provided in this specific area to be clearly oriented towards the promotion of the human person.
- Privilege every action that strengthens the concept of family, as the bedrock of society.
- Stimulate the desire of service and the spirit of solidarity in every person working in the University.
- Strengthen the structures and relational functions of the University with different sectors of society, both nationally and internationally.

- Promote the dissemination of knowledge, through mechanisms in line with technological progress.
- Exert a presence of service especially in the municipalities of the northern sector of La Sabana of Bogota which correspond to the current location of the University.
- Keep contact with alumni and ensure the continuous verification of their impact in their social and professional environment.

d) With regards to the University wellbeing:

- Within the context of the University's mission, the University must procure the University's community wellbeing, in a way that the person as a whole is attended, so that by placing special attention in this important aspect, such wellbeing expands to personal improvement and development; this aspect is related with being well and doing good. This concept must respect the uniqueness of each person, as a member of the educational community, by acknowledging and stimulating her or his creativity, freedom, sociability and expressiveness.
- This wellbeing aims at physical and mental health and the satisfaction of the different human needs, especially those at the spiritual, cultural and social levels.
- The University seeks, finally, to create environments of study and work characterized by warmth, kindness and respect for the ideas and behaviors of others.





Universidad de
La Sabana

Campus del Puente del Común ▪ Km 7 Autopista Norte de Bogotá ▪ Chía Colombia ▪ www.unisabana.edu.co